

# nottingham bulletin.

AUG/SEP 79

Nº 3

PRICE 15p

INCORPORATING THE BULLETINS OF NOTTINGHAM WORKSHOP AND  
NOTTINGHAM CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE CUTS.

## CUTS ISSUE

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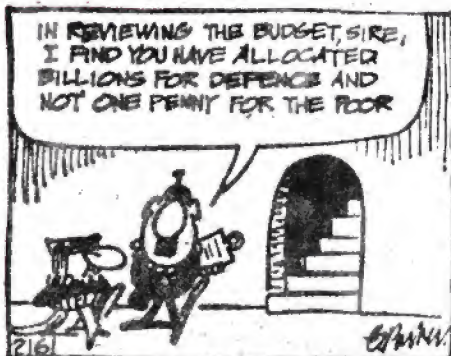
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# Threat of cuts in local government

A cold and phoney war exists in Nottinghamshire. Trade Unions representing workers employed within the Local Authorities are watching edgedly as the County Council and the District Councils determine their policies in respect of the massive cuts demanded by Central Government.

Most attention is focused on Notts' County Council who with employees are the major target for economies.

So far, despite threats, the insults and the rhetorics, there has been no major cuts and no major decisions taken by the County Council in respect of future cuts.

What has been introduced is a very strict vacancies control procedure. Under this procedure, Departmental Directors and Departmental Chairmen submit weekly lists of vacancies within their departments to the Manpower Committee. The Manpower Committee then examine the vacancies and tell the departments whether or not they can fill the vacancies, whether the vacancies should be deferred, or whether they should be frozen altogether. The criterion Vacancy Review that the Panel are using includes vague concepts like "Does the job need to be done?" and "Can the job be covered by other staff?"

The Primary aim of the review procedure is to provide a reservoir of frozen posts which can be used for redeployment purposes when the big cuts start coming and redundancies occur. Perhaps that is the reason why more vacancies within the Administrative and White Collar jobs are tending to be frozen than those amongst the manual workers.

## TRADE UNIONS NOT COMPLACENT

However, the Trade Unions are not complacent about what is happening. We are all aware of the ten page submission made by the Conservative controlled County Councils Association which includes proposals to cease educating children under the age of 6 and over the age of 15. To cut out free school milk, free school transport, to reduce the nutritional value of school meals, and even such fundamental earth shattering savings such as to stop old age pensioners inside old people's homes from receiving weekly pocket money! The Government are reported to have received the Associations document "Favourably".

The future then is bleak, indications that in Notts. at least 2 childrens homes will be closing makes it so. Admissions to old



peoples homes will be reduced. Admissions to nurseries will also be reduced. Attempts will be made to reduce the level of school meals provision. Teachers Unions suspect that they will loose up to 400 jobs. Cleaning Standards will also be reduced and all of this will costs the Unions thousands of jobs.

## EFFECTS ON SERVICES

Equally important will be the effect upon the services which the public receive from the local authorities. It would appear that the Central Government are now prepared to consider abandoning a wide range of services which have

in the past been statutory responsibilities. They are clearly prepared to see the education of children suffer, they are prepared to see old people left to die in cold, lonely and desperate home conditions. They are prepared to countenance parents who beat their children and they are prepared to carry out all of these callous tasks while asking rate payers to pay the same price, if not more, for the drastically decimated services. It is of little wonder that the police and army are being strengthened.

The need for all trade unions to act together in opposing these terrible and imminent cuts is an urgent priority. Public sector unions in particular should cease their damaging defence of purely sectional interests. No union should be left to fight on its own. No union should waste time suggesting that their cuts should take place elsewhere and claiming "don't touch me, cut them". We will need the principles of trade union solidarity and unity more than ever in the coming few years.

Neither should the unions be frightened of taking on the political battle which is implicit in any opposition to the cuts. The fight is going to be dirty, and if we were to follow Jim Callaghans advice and avoid taking political struggle, then we will be smashed.

Jim Callaghan is clearly hoping that the Labour Government will be returned at the next General Election on the vote of the unemployed.

J. McG.





# ACTION AGAINST RALEIGHS

Lenton Action Group is now on the attack in its fight against the pollution caused by Raleigh's massive factory. Firstly the city's environmental health officials, with a little help from LAG, may have to take the firm to court and secondly LAG's recently launched publicity campaign against Raleigh is proving to be quite successful.

Raleigh could well find itself in court because it has broken a council order, a prohibition notice served under the Public Health (Recurring Nuisances) Act, not to cause further emissions of iron oxide. The order was made about a month ago but as far as LAG is concerned that order was broken on Friday July 13th when a further emission ruined a baby's clothes. The baby's parents, Tony and Mary Clark, said that the clothing was worth about £30 but are just thank-

ful that their daughter Sally wasn't outside in her pram when the emission occurred. The Clark's home, 50, Johnson Road, Lenton, backs immediately on to Raleigh's chrome-plating department.

Samples of the clothing are now being examined by the city's analyst and a deposit gauge, which will measure how much filth Raleigh spews out, is to be installed in the Clark's back garden. LAG is optimistic that this should be enough to get Raleigh's directors in the dock. But to make sure LAG members are keeping their eyes peeled in case there are any more emissions and are letting the environmental health department know when there are.

A spokesman for the group said: "As far as we are concerned Raleigh has violated the prohibition notice but we are prepared

to be patient so that enough strong evidence can be built up in order that a water-tight case can be put against Raleigh in court".

## BAD PUBLICITY FOR RALEIGH

Getting bad publicity for Raleigh has been LAG's other recent success. At the group's annual meeting held just a few weeks ago, it was decided that Raleigh's image was a vulnerable point worth attacking. Since then there has been a number of stories in the Nottingham News and items in the news broadcasts on Radio Trent and Radio Nottingham.

The spokesman added: "Raleigh claims to be concerned with people's health and the environment but what they are really concerned with is selling bikes and making a profit. If they were genuinely concerned about health and the environment they would improve both the living conditions for those of us who live near the factory and the working conditions for those who work inside.

"Attacking the hypocrisy of Raleigh's image is now central to our campaign and we are very publicity conscious because we're sure that in the long run it will have the effect of forcing Raleigh to treat us more seriously."

## TWO OTHER FRONTS

But LAG, which was set up about 14 months ago, is fighting it's campaign on two other fronts. Firstly there's the problem of parking caused by the lack of parking space provided by Raleigh for their employees. LAG understands this may be solved this month (August) when a resident's parking scheme is introduced by the city council. But whether that will solve the problem entirely remains to be seen.

The second difficulty is the hazard caused by the heavy lorries which use the weighbridge and unload at Raleigh's Cycle Road steel stores. Up to 15 lorries a day make deliveries to the stores and often they are so large that they completely block the road, sometimes for up to half an hour.

"Resolving this is going to be difficult", said the spokesman, because ideally we would like the steel stores re-sited to remove the noise, inconvenience and threat these lorries pose. We know many of the drivers support us because it's so difficult for them to manoeuvre in the confines of Cycle Road. They hate delivering to Raleigh."

## REPORT OF CUTS COMMITTEE MEETING

A call was made for the Nottingham Campaign against the Cuts Committee to become much more of an actively campaigning organisation, at its last meeting held at the TGWU offices. Delegates argued that, to have any success in the struggle against the onslaught on public expenditure which is presently taking place, the Cuts Committee needed as a matter of urgency to develop a much more public profile in its attempts to invite opposition to the cuts.

Delegates were concerned that if the Committee restricted itself to passing 'pious resolutions' then it would lose the opportunity to become an invaluable co-ordinating and centralising power in the resistance to the cuts in Nottingham.

Delegates put forward a fighting campaign on 3 levels - an alternative economic strategy to cutting social expenditure had to be fought for in the wider labour movement; the Cuts Committee itself should fight to close ranks in the Nottingham Labour Movement against the cuts; and that the Cuts Committee should fight to win popular support through making clear the effects of the cuts which are made.

### WORK ALREADY PLANNED

The Steering Committee reported that the work was already being planned to generate and invite opposition to cuts in the Health Service (see elsewhere in this issue) and the meeting also mandated the Steering Committee

to investigate the holding of an autumn conference with a big national speaker on the whole question of local government cuts. The meeting also resolved that the Nottingham Campaign against the cuts should support all union members refusing to do duties of employees who are made redundant or re-deployed and to support all local councils and Area Health Authorities who refuse to implement a policy of cuts in services and jobs.

### CUTS CAMPAIGN CRITICAL OF EETPU

The recent announcement that the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunications and Plumbing Trades Union was negotiating a settlement which included provision for open private medical care for its members came under heavy attack at the meeting. The electricians union was accused of looking to its own narrow sectoral interests which would only aid the Tory Government in its attacks on the Health Service and their plans to reprivatise it. Delegates said the projected settlement would threaten the health care of the community at large.

The meeting resolved that: The Nottingham Campaign against the Cuts expresses its severe criticisms of the EETPU especially in view of the cuts locally and nationally and notes that its settlement is totally contradictory of TUC policy.

I.B.J.

D.B.



# STRUGGLE FOR ST. ANN'S NURSERY

The struggle of a group of Nursery Nurses to set up a Community Day Nursery for working mothers in the St Ann's area has been frustrated by the local county council, it was reported to a public meeting organised by the nurses.

The meeting was called to allow the nurses to explain to the St Ann's community how the Education Authority had withdrawn their offer of a building which they originally said could be used as a Day Nursery. The building concerned, which is in the grounds of the Rosehill Primary School in St Anns, is presently being used to store obsolete kitchen equipment. The authority now say there is no suitable alternative accommodation available to store this equipment. However, the people attending the meeting, who were angry at the about-turn of the authority were quick to suggest where it should be put!

The meeting was incensed by the reported remarks of a councillor for the St Ann's area who asked why couldn't working mothers pay the economic rate for nursery facilities ( which is around £20 per week ); and by the remarks of the storeman in charge of the building in question who said " women shouldn't go out to work in the first place ".

## PREJUDICES WEAKEN RESISTANCE

It was pointed out that it was precisely these attitudes and prejudices which would be exploited to weaken resistance to cuts in public expenditure, which would abolish the right and opportunity of women to go out to work. One woman pointed out that working class families " needed two wage packets coming in to survive " and that the single parent was especially hard hit by cuts in nursery provision, especially in any area like St Anns. Already £200,000 had been cut from nurseries since the Tories had taken power in County Hall.

But the meeting was told that further cuts were on the way and the idea of introducing "continental school hours" was seen as a direct attack on Nottingham's 14,000 working mothers who would have to give up work. Again, the County Council Association was proposing that no children under 6 should be taught and the statutory provision of school meals was now under threat.

One speaker suggested that the Tories might just as well have appointed Barbara Cartland as their advisor on women's role in society!

## SUPPORT FROM TENANTS ASSOCIATIONS

The Nursery Nurses are supported by tenants associations all over the city in their struggle to establish day nursery facilities and St Anns is the first area in which there has been any possibility of a suitable building becoming available.

A political decision is now required to make this building available and the decision of the Education Authority to withdraw their offer is now being reviewed

by the Chairperson of the Education Committee in conjunction with County Council officials.

Supporters of the Nursery Nurses project are asked to write a letter " expressing your concern and disgust at the bureaucracy which is now preventing the project's progress". to:

Councillor Caroline Minkley,  
Chairman of the Education  
Committee, Notts. C.C.

I.B.J.

## A day nursery for council staff?

The Equal Rights Sub-committee of Notts NALGO Branch is conducting a survey to estimate the need for a nursery for County Council staff in the County Hall area. NALGO's Annual Conference in 1977 called for action to establish workplace nurseries, and we feel that the concentration of NALGO staff in the West Bridgeford area means that this would be the best place to start in Nottinghamshire.

The scarcity of nursery provision in the county is reflected in the following figures:

Registered Childminders—one place for every 64 children  
Private Day nurseries—one place for every 113 children  
Social Services Dept.—one place for every 107 children (Day Nurseries).

At the present time, the number of places in County run nurseries is so inadequate that only the cases of the most severe social need can be accommodated, and there are many one parent families having to rely on social security because the lack of nursery places means they are unable to seek employment. .

Since the Tory council took over in 1977, plans for an extra 405 nursery places have been cancelled and there are no planned increases so far, and the council have out-voted suggestions to take up national funds available to increase nursery provision. The figures suggest that by 1986 there will be an additional 4,750 under 5 in Nottinghamshire ( in 1977 there were approximately 60,000). It is obvious that just to keep to the inadequate level of provision that there is now, new places must be created to fulfill the same needs in the future.

## OTHER LOCAL AUTHORITY EXAMPLES

Notts County Council would not be

taking pioneering steps if it provided nurseries for its staff, as other local authorities have already taken the lead. They provide different examples of how this can be done. For instance, the Borough of Camden in London got together with a few other large local employers such as Thames TV and bought up places in a local nursery. In this manner Notts County Council might consider co-operating with Boots or Players if no single establishment is found to have a great enough need of its own.

Whatever the eventual methods chosen, it cannot be denied that the provision of nursery facilities for Council employees would prevent the great waste of experience and training when women have to abandon hopes of returning to work. It would also, of course, be available to single fathers or men who cannot find alternative provision for their children, and it would be a strong factor in attracting new staff to the authority.

The survey will only discover the existing need among staff employed already and it is hoped that there will be good enough evidence to start working out the details such as location and funding in conjunction with the employers once the results are known.

NOTE: The new Minister of Education has already made it known that no further resources will be available for nursery education and spending levels are to be clawed back. This means that, whenever staffing levels fall in nurseries, there will be a reduced intake of children. Thus no further national funds are available to increase nursery provision.

(From 'Trentsider'—Notts NALGO News)



# CPSA - new technology and cuts

Most people one talks to these days are terrified of the prospect of what the Cuts will mean to them, how it will affect their lives, their jobs, their health, and their children's education, perhaps even their own education. But while the majority wait with bated breath, a minority have already been severely affected. Not surprisingly it's us in the Civil Service who have been hardest hit immediately.

It must be made clear that the real Cuts began 5-6 years ago, the introduction of which was veiled behind the common term "New Technology". The leadership of several unions, but particularly CPSA (Civil and Public Services Association), the area we shall be concentrating on, were approached by the Civil Service Department and asked to participate in various joint working parties for the installation of computers and hence new systems throughout Civil Service Departments. No doubt there was a certain romantic aura surrounding the introduction of this "New Technology".

What our leadership failed to ascertain was the long term effect of this on their membership, and rather than hold up the process to assess these effects and then negotiate the advancement on our terms, they entered into agreements in a state of almost complete ignorance. There was and is no excuse for this. As a result we

have suffered a 28% cut in jobs through the introduction of the computer alone. It follows that once this step had been taken Top Civil Servants set about dreaming up ever more elaborate systems which could be accommodated by the computer to enable them to make further Cuts in jobs.

One of these new systems will operate from 10th September this year in all Benefit Offices. It will mean that claimants will be required to sign once a fortnight, and will receive their money once a fortnight. This new scheme is called FAP and will result in a further 11% loss of jobs in Benefit Offices alone. One could write a book on the adverse effects FAP will have on claimants, but we are limited here to discussing staff alone. All these Cuts which mean an overall 39% loss of jobs in the Civil Service were achieved by the Labour Government.

When the Tories were elected in May their tactics were obvious and completely blatant. They announced an immediate 3 month ban on recruitment for the whole Civil Service and a 3% cut in jobs to be achieved within a year, by means of natural wastage. There is no way this can be done. We will for the first time ever in the Civil Service be faced with redundancies, and the prospects are even more gloomy as CPSA has not achieved a "No Redundancies" agreement with

the Civil Service Department.

At Nottingham Benefit Office we are already facing a desperate situation. The number of staff required to man an office serving 10 thousand claimants is approximately 144. In February this year we only had 119 staff. We have lost six since then who have been replaced by temporary (six month contract) totally inexperienced staff, but it is obvious with our depleted numbers we are giving a poor service, and the situation can only deteriorate.

The problem facing our staff is whether or not they can withstand the pressures put on them to do the work of two or three in some cases. The poor service creates antagonism and hostility between claimants and counter staff, neither of whom are responsible for the situation. With redundancies imminent in the private sector, many of which are also the product of New Technology, the unemployment register can only rise in this and other areas. The question facing us now is how can we effectively fight the Civil Service Department to save our jobs? It has been proved that the leadership of our union did not and now cannot assist us. Our hope lies in our own local organisations, within CPSA, and our ability to organise with other trade unionists on a local basis.

S.B.

## Campaign against cuts in STEP schemes

Workers and sponsors of temporary schemes met on the 19th July and agreed a campaign strategy for tackling (what seemed at the moment) the inevitable closure of all STEP schemes in Nottingham.

There are four broad areas where every scheme and every worker must get involved in.

1. CUTS. The campaign should concentrate on fighting to end cuts in the MSC budget, and should fight for an increased allocation of funds to expand the useful work programmes.

2. RIGHTS. The campaign should fight for improved workers rights wage increases in line with relevant union negotiations, should oppose the low wage rated jobs e.g. YOP, YEOP, which we feel should be based on equivalent apprentice rates as agreed by the relevant unions. The campaign recognises that some jobs will be unique, and as such those projects negotiate their own wage rates.

3. FUTURE. The campaign should fight for the retention of established projects. The campaign should force the government to recognise the plight of MSC project employees, and come up with a realistic alternative to the dole queue after 12 months. e.g. an increase in Urban Aid and Inner City funds, an increase in opportunities for apprenticeships, an increase in the availability of union recognised training and re-training opportunities.

4. STATUS. The campaign should force the government to recognise the serious, important and essential work carried out by the MSC project employees, and that MSC projects are not merely a cosmetic, but that their value should be recognised, and the length of their project time should therefore be extended.

The meeting adopted these aims.

### ACTION

The meeting then went on to discuss ways of implementing the

aims.

1. All MSC project employees to seek support from relevant unions.
2. Approach local Labour Parties, Tenants Groups, and other interested bodies to seek support.
3. Call for all MSC project employees to be unionised, and move motions through the branches.
4. Publicity to be gained and Press Releases issued.
5. Direct Action to be considered.
6. Call for a national campaign.
7. EVERY MSC project in Notts. to be contacted, and contact maintained.
8. A duplicated Newsheet containing latest news, events to date, (in future) dates of meeting, and an invitation to send a representative to be set up.

The next meeting is on 16th August at 7.30pm at [REDACTED] Road. Contact [REDACTED] Tel [REDACTED] COME ALONG.



# Health Service dying at 31

The Health Service has been going since 1948 when the NHS was introduced and voluntary and private hospitals and other public health services taken into public ownership.

However, the inequalities, which existed between 'richer' and 'poorer' areas before 1948 still exist today although the differences have been reduced. The Notts. Area Health Authority gets £93 to spend per head of the population as compared with the national average of £120 per head. The Central Notts. District gets even less ( £70 per head ).

On top of this drastic situation the Area Health Authority is required to contain its expenditure within the cash limits for 1979/80. Cash limits are planned ceilings on the amount of cash that the government will spend or make available on services during a financial year and were introduced by the Labour Government in 1976. The system of cash limits controls public expenditure by limiting the available cash rather than by maintaining a given volume of services, and are set without any reference to the real needs of the Health Services, up and down the country, but purely based on successive government's policies to limit expenditure on the Health Service.

The actions of the Area Health Authority to limit its expenditure which already include the cutting of purchases of goods and services and the freezing of staff recruitment, are detailed in a special Briefing Paper, on cuts in Nottingham's Health Service, which is available from 118, Mansfield Road, prepared for the Cuts Committee by Nottingham Workshop. The Cuts Committee is presently laying the basis for a mass campaign in Nottingham against the Cuts.

Below we print a report on what is already taking place in the Central Notts District.

## Central Notts Health Action Group

Right from the inception of the Central Nottinghamshire Health Finance Action Group (HFAG) in January 1979 the chief aim of all those involved has been to fight for more money to be spent on the National Health Service as a whole and in the Central Notts Health



District in particular, in order to reverse years of under-funding in which the area has fallen further and further behind nearby areas. The action group arose as a natural consequence of a campaign being fought by the Central Nottinghamshire Community Health Council for more money. It has brought together a powerful alliance between trade unionists, health practitioners, community groups and the Community Health Council.

Initially the trade union involvement was limited but recently the action group has gained the powerful support of the North Notts Area of the National Union of Mineworkers, the Central Notts branches of the National Union of Public Employees, and members of the Confederation of Health Service Employees, and other trade unionists who work both within and outside the Health Service. The group has always had the support of nurses and G.P.s in the area plus many individuals and community and tenants associations, plus the local M.P.s. Indeed the M.P.s have met Sir George Young, Health Minister, after an adjournment debate held in the House of Commons on June 18th.

A petition asking for more funds has been signed by over 50,000 people. Three newsletters have been circulated in the area. Pressure has been brought on the Area Health Authority and the Regional Health Authority to demand more resources for the areas they represent. So far

central government has refused to counterance any more money for the area or district. Therefore the action group is organising public meetings, street meetings and a demonstration in the autumn. The group meets once a month and meetings are open to the public and they are all publicised in the local newspapers.

There has always been a danger of the group becoming too parochial. However Action Group members have always argued that the campaign should link up with other people in similar situations, and that all arguments based on the allocation of existing resources are dangerous, as this means robbing Peter to pay Paul. What has always been stressed is that the campaign wishes to see an improved health service for everyone and it has not lost sight of the fact that the government, whether it is Tory or Labour, is cutting the health service evenly to divert attention in the hope that the opposition to health service cuts will end up squabbling amongst themselves. That is why it is not possible to give wholehearted support to the new re-allocation of resources unless extra cash is made available at the same time and the health service receives proper and adequate funding in all areas.

The Health Finance Action Group in central Notts is opposing the closure of Debdale Hall Hospital, a recovery hospital, Langwith Lodge, a recovery hospital, and the threatened closures of two wards in amalgamation of the further two at Kings Mill Hospital, plus the reduction of community health services in the Central Notts Area based on the principles outlined above.

The campaign still has to work out a reasoned alternative to the cuts and link up with other districts in the Nottinghamshire Area Health Authority and cuts campaigns on a national level. However this process is beginning and as the commitment of trade unions and people in the community grows in the coming months it is hoped that it will develop into a strong campaign for a better health service.



# Staff

## shortages at

### Mapperley

Due to a 25% trained staff shortage at Mapperley Hospital, a geriatric ward, 'Robin Hood', was recently closed, and further drastic cuts may be necessary. While it is possible to accept that this action was not necessitated by direct cuts, it is also important to ask why nursing, and psychiatric nursing in particular, is so unattractive.

Not only is there widespread anxiety about the enormous cuts in the Health Service still in the pipeline (which threaten, amongst other things, further delays in the opening of the Queen's Medical Centre), but nurses and ancillary staff work long and unsociable hours for miserable pay in the name of 'dedication'. Effectively these workers are subsidising the Health Service - wages are kept low rather than further reduce patient care. But increasingly staff are demonstrating their dissatisfaction by leaving.

At Mapperley, as at many other hospitals, wards depend for their functioning on a supply of underpaid student and pupil nurses, thought these are not officially to be used as a 'pair of hands'. If the supply is uneven the patients suffer - this is true at the moment of a number of wards at Mapperley.

I have worked for the past year on a geriatric ward where due to chronic staff shortages, health and safety standards are low. The patients are processed through a rigid daily routine by harassed staff with no time for individual attention - and these patients are on the ward for social as much as medical reasons; this should be a home and refuge for the often unwanted elderly. Staff morale is low.

The situation as it stands is totally indefensible - but as active contact with patients ceases five grades below the top of the nursing hierarchy, which is itself hamstrung by cuts and the reluctance of workers to re-enter the Health Service, it is unlikely to improve in the near future. We need a better Health Service - and we must pay for it; Fight the Cuts, Support Pay Campaigns.

Anna Dimond, Nursing Assistant,  
Mapperley Hospital.

## education committee CUTS

The Nottinghamshire Education Library Service was founded in 1947 and today employs the equivalent of 24 full time staff. Since its establishment the organisation of the Service has influenced that of similar services both in Britain and abroad. It is therefore a particularly unfortunate irony that the cuts in the current County Council budget should tend to undermine a service for which the authority is so highly regarded by librarians and educationalists in the past.

As it is primarily a back up service, the work of the Education Library Service is not so well known to the general public as it deserves to be. Large block loans of books exchanged on a regular basis are provided to all types of County schools, supplementing stock and so widening the scope of educational and recreational reading at all levels. At any one time, an average of 400,000 books are in circulation and there is a permanent loan-collection of 300,000 volumes. Over 7,000 project loans are available annually; these are specially selected groups of books on particular subjects required by school and college departments, and by individual teachers and pupils to back up course work and to cover examination requirements. These projects cover the entire range of age and ability from primary to open - scholarship level. They are also vital for examination work in providing indispensable up-to-date information.

In addition, a teachers' reference section is maintained, with a wide range of books on education and teaching methods, and this is constantly updated. The service also maintains a reference collection open to parents and teachers of all books published for children and young people. This is also continually updated and annotated so that the most effective use of available money may be made, through informed guidance.

#### TIME TABLE FOR THE CUTS

The original time-table for the

cuts, as revealed in the published minutes of the Council was four years. A cut in the Education Library Service of 55% has been implemented, the 45% remaining being spent entirely on maintaining staffing. This means a complete moratorium on the purchase of all new books for the service. It also means that there is no further money for Colleges of Further Education, whose libraries are funded by the Service, to purchase books or periodicals. Furthermore, head teachers of secondary schools have been told that no projects will be provided for pupils from Year 3 upwards. This means that those pupils and students who are in most need of the extra material provided by the projects will no longer receive it. Since the publication of the budget, the Chairman of the Education Committee has promised to try to find some way of restoring the axed money, at least in part, but no precise amount has been mentioned and, in the meantime, during the forthcoming academic year, school-children and students in the Authority's area are certain to be placed at a disadvantage.

Failure to provide up-to-date information in projects could have a damaging effect on the chances of passing examinations - and thus the career prospects - of many children and students taking C.S.E. and G.C.E. 'O' and 'A' levels. Without this type of material, many minority subjects will have the greatest difficulty in offering viable courses at these examination levels. Individual schools simply cannot afford to replace the range of materials available until now from the Education Library Service. Capitalisation has already been cut by 10% and extra calls are being imposed upon the remainder this year; since book prices are accelerating anyway, this must mean a decline of up to 20% in real terms in the amount of money a head teacher may allocate to the purchase of library books if he bases that allocation on last year's figures. Moreover, it makes better economic sense to provide such material centrally, so that it can be used intensively by several establishments.

For the sake of those children in our schools and colleges at present and for that of those yet to make their way through them, it is to be earnestly hoped that the County Council will see its way to restoring this educationally vital service in substantial measure this coming academic year.





# New Technology in Nottingham

Published in previous editions of Nottingham Bulletin have been articles concerning the state promotion of the micro-electronics industry and the health and safety aspects of working with New Technology. This articles illustrates how the micro-boom is being promoted in Nottingham, and indicates areas that have already been affected by the so-called technological revolution.

## PROMOTION

Anxious that Britain should not be left at the post in the micro race, the N.E.B.- INMOS venture was established with the intention of producing microprocessors in Britain. An international management consultancy was employed by INMOS to discover the best location for the plant, and a questionnaire was sent to every local authority in the country. Among the requirements is for an area that has a history of female labour involved in 'dextrous skills', an area of good social amenities and communications, and an area where wages are not too high. Nottinghamshire appears well suited to the INMOS criteria.

The importance the outgoing government placed on microelectronics is further reflected by the Micro-processor Application Project - a scheme to promote the industrial application of micros. Under this scheme, Trent Polytechnic has received £25,600 for its computer services department to run courses for Nottingham firms on how they can apply microprocessors to their production. Application would be in two categories. The first would be in the form of a 'totally packaged' computer system, e.g. in administrative work - ledgers, sales analysis, employment records or in industrial control systems e.g. quality control, counting, sorting batching of products (increasing the efficiency of automatic and manually operated plant). The second category of application would be where microprocessors can be added to a product to increase its efficiency and value. (Washing machines, car instrumentation etc.) The Poly is in contact with a large number of Nottingham firms, and are receiving a good response to their courses.

The expansion of the microelectronics industry has seen the mushrooming of computer consultancies. There are at present approximately 25 in Nottingham. They carry out feasibility studies for firms who are thinking of investing in new micro based plant or products, and receive £2,000 for each study

from the MAPCON scheme. Parr Computer Services, have recently carried out studies for Hicking Pentecost Textile group and TANYA Knitwear which has led to the introduction of systems for processing of information such as payrolls, invoicing and stock control.

## EVENING POST

The Times dispute which arose due to the introduction of new printing techniques, is still unsettled. The introduction of similar printing methods at the Evening Post, provides a most striking example of new technology resulting in redundancies. Between 1967-76 a total of 63,000 jobs were lost in the UK printing industry; in the same period there were 290 redundancies at the Post. The change in technology has been the introduction of photographic plate processes controlled by computer, in place of the traditional rotary presses. A journalist can now write copy directly into a computer terminal, which will be edited while it is in the computer before being processed for setting.

## PROCESSORS

The most widespread application of New Technology, and the area where the largest number of jobs is immediately at risk, is in the office. A.P.E.X. has estimated that about 250,000 office jobs will be lost by 1983. It will be of particular importance to the 3 million women office workers in the UK. The move toward the auto-

mated office is spearheaded by the Wordprocessor - a mini-computer, into which information such as invoices, letters, employee records etc. can be fed, and then printed out when required by a separate printer, many times faster than the speediest typist. It is estimated that a Word Processor can replace 3 in 5 typist jobs and an incalculable number of admin clerks. Boots, Plesseys, County Hall, Pork Farms, E.M.E.B. have Word Processors and there are many more in use in city centre offices.

Many difficulties arise when WPs are introduced. Apart from pushing a way for the reduction of staff, there are serious health and safety factors to consider. There is also the question of who should operate the system, which should involve a fresh job evaluation for grading purposes (Plesseys have had particular difficulties over this). It is imperative that trade unionists "know the facts" about WPs and other new technologies, in order to be in a stronger bargaining position at the point of their introduction. In Nottingham APEX have taken a lead; at Plessey an agreement has been made with management over the operation of existing office technology, and the introduction of new systems. At Rolls Royce(Derby) APEX members have been instructed not to operate WPs that have been installed until an agreement has been reached. NALGO in Nottingham are working towards a similar policy.

## MORE JOBS IN STORE?

Warehousing and retailing are being considerably restructured by computerisation, becoming more efficient and speedy but having serious implications for the numbers of staff required. In Jessops a new IBM computer check out, stock control system has been installed, with eighty computerised cash registers throughout the store. Each product has a ticket with a computer number (which determines the price) allocated by the central computer of the John Lewis group. An optical pen is rubbed over the special ticket and this automatically clocks up the price and produces a receipt. A complete account of what has been sold is kept and can automatically check the levels of stock and re-order when necessary. Boots



MICROELECTRONIC DEVICES WILL NOT  
CREATE MORE JOBS.



have a system of stock control in their warehouses which are linked to their retail outlets (ensuring the exact flow of goods between warehouse and store without counting and checking). Sainsbury's are also experimenting with a stock control system.

A new system has been installed at the County Library, Angel Row. The system is linked to the main computer at County Hall where information about the books is stored on magnetic tapes. At the issue counter a 'light pen' is run along your library card and this can indicate by means of a bleep, if your books are overdue or if you have too many books issued etc. Overdue reminders are printed automatically after a specific period.

Many firms are introducing stock control; Plesseys and Boots have such systems. Butlers, a warehousing and distributory firm, have a warehouse at Long Eaton which provides computerised control of stock for their clients.

#### PRODUCTION + PRODUCTS

Bell Fruit provides an interesting example of how New Technology can be applied to a product to increase its efficiency. New micro-electronic units are being installed in fruit machines replacing the elaborate mechanical apparatus previously incorporated. Interestingly enough, Bell Fruit are beginning to produce for export a credit card fruit machine.

Often it is difficult to spot microprocessors arriving at the front door as workers leave by the back; technological change is often small and apparently insignificant, as manning levels are reduced by 'natural wastage' in an undramatic manner. After the spate of publicity last year following the BBC's "Chips are Down" programme, union reps at Bell Fruits approached the management about the likely effects of New Technology on their jobs. They were assured that there would be no redundancies. However, under a

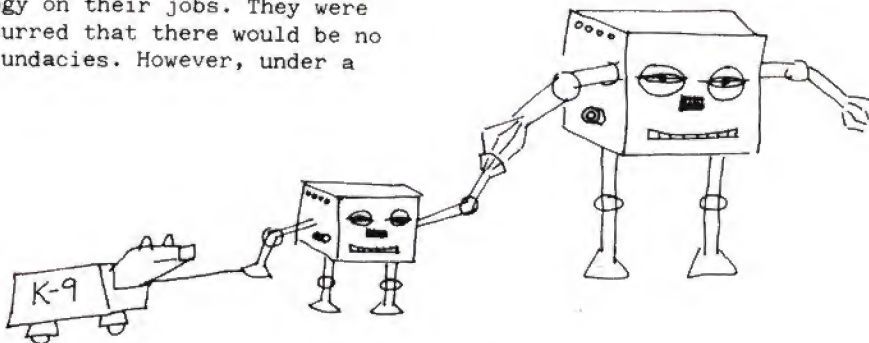
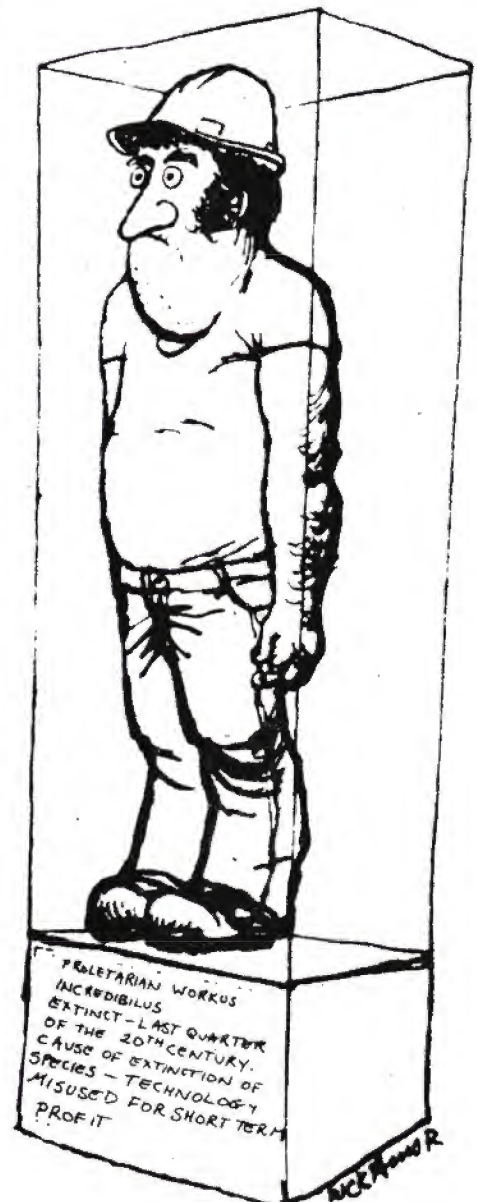
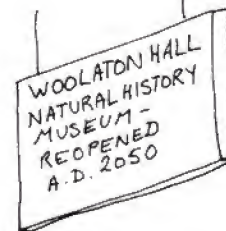
#### PLESSEY

Nottingham has its own representative involved in the micro-electronic market - Plessey. They are at present producing, along with G.E.C., a computerised exchange and transmission system for the Post Office called 'System X'. They are also producing a private digital exchange, which can be used by companies and linked to the external public system. These new systems will mean job loss in several areas. Fully automatic exchanges will greatly reduce the need for maintenance- no complicated wiring repairs, just slot in replacement units. The remote controlled self-checking facilities inherent in the system will mean that many exchanges will be completely unattended. It is also unlikely that there will be any increase in the number of jobs to produce these exchanges- where the electromechanical Strowger exchange required an average ratio of 26 workers to produce, System X will require just one worker!

There has been much speculation about a major reshuffle in the electronics industry. It is acknowledged by leading commentators that because electronics is developing at such an incredible rate, for a firm to be successful it will need a wide range of new technologies, and it will have to combine them in different ways. Different industries/products/systems are converging. The computerised office with its word processors and electronic filing and information systems will be integrated via digital exchanges with the telecoms. network and satellites to other office, computer and information systems. Only powerful and diverse groups (like the giant I.B.M.) can compete effectively in that type of market. Those that cannot will be forced to produce specialised equipment in small quantities.

It is the view of many business analysts that (by international standards) small British firms like Plessey need to be co-ordinated in order to survive in the most rapidly growing of industrial sectors. Thus the next few years, perhaps even the next few months, could see a major reorganisation among British electronics companies in which Plesseys will disappear as an independent unit. Nottingham Workshop is currently researching into this question and all aspects of New Technology in Nottingham and we will return to the subject in future issues of Nottingham Bulletin.

A.E.



new productivity deal being negotiated at present, the management although happy with the current level of production wishes to reduce the workforce by natural wastage (by approx 41 of its members).



# INNER CITY LOTTERY

Voluntary groups in Nottingham's Inner city have been allocated £400,000, if the city council's recommendations are accepted by the Dept. of the Environment. This figure represents a 100% increase in the original £200,000 which was to be made available for the voluntary sector proposals to the Inn Inner Area Programme for the year 1980/81. Proposals were received from the groups seeking funding support for equipment, staffing, construction and so on.

But the whole process of arriving at these decisions has been notable for the inadequacy of consultation and communication. Voluntary groups got together in January of this year to form the Inner Area Programme Group (IAPG) principally to establish and develop consultation machinery which would be responsive to groups needs, and be comprehensive in the range of groups involved. The IAPG elected an Executive Committee at its inaugural open meeting. The role of this committee was to facilitate the opening up of the consultation process, by meeting with the council officers. It became clear that the officers were unsympathetic, seeing this as an added complication. They wanted the Executive to be the voice of the voluntary sector and to indulge in the business of judging applications. Furthermore, the officers, led by John Merry, City Council Inner Area Programme Officer, were hastily deciding the priority of each application and making comments on them. Few, if any, groups were consulted or told about these officers comments on their applications which went to committee.

## NEIGHBOURHOOD 'CONSULTATION'

Merry also set up only 5 neighbourhood consultation meetings. These have been far too few in number, selective invitations were issued, and there was poor advertising. Both the councillors and the few voluntary sector reps. who attended were confused and angry at the way they were managed. Details were very scarce; there was no indication of overall council policy or strategy. All that was presented was a bald statement of the key issues (p 16-17 of the Inner Area Programme Document) e.g. employment is the highest priority. Most would agree that this is so, but the council would not detail the hows and whys of any employment generating measures.

The first meeting with the Executive and the councillors was at the Community Facilities Liason Committee on the 16th July. The Councillors believed that the

Executive were present to participate in the judging of schemes and money allocation. The Executive declined because it had no mandate pointing out that any decisions reached on the basis of the Officers comments and research would be misrepresentative and erroneous. There was also no indication for the criteria used in deciding on applications - the decisions being inconsistent and contradictory i.e. one playground got funded, another didn't; one area got a community worker, another didn't etc.

Meanwhile, when groups became aware of the faulty and suspect nature of the decision making, they decided to get together to work out what action they could take in preparation for the next round of decision making. This was the Policy and Finance (Inner City) Subcommittee on August 2nd at which the decisions from the Community Facilities Liason Committee would be vetted. The groups decided to mount a campaign of protest to Cllr Carroll, leader of the Council and Mr Hammond, the Chief Executive, sending them letters, asking for criterions, issuing press statements etc. Carroll recognised both the inadequacy of the council officers preparations and the value of many of the schemes. Fortunately, there had been under-spending in the Programmes for this financial year so this was hastily

made available to bring the total up to £400,000. The only reasonably clear criteria is that those applications for recurrent costs have by and large been rejected.

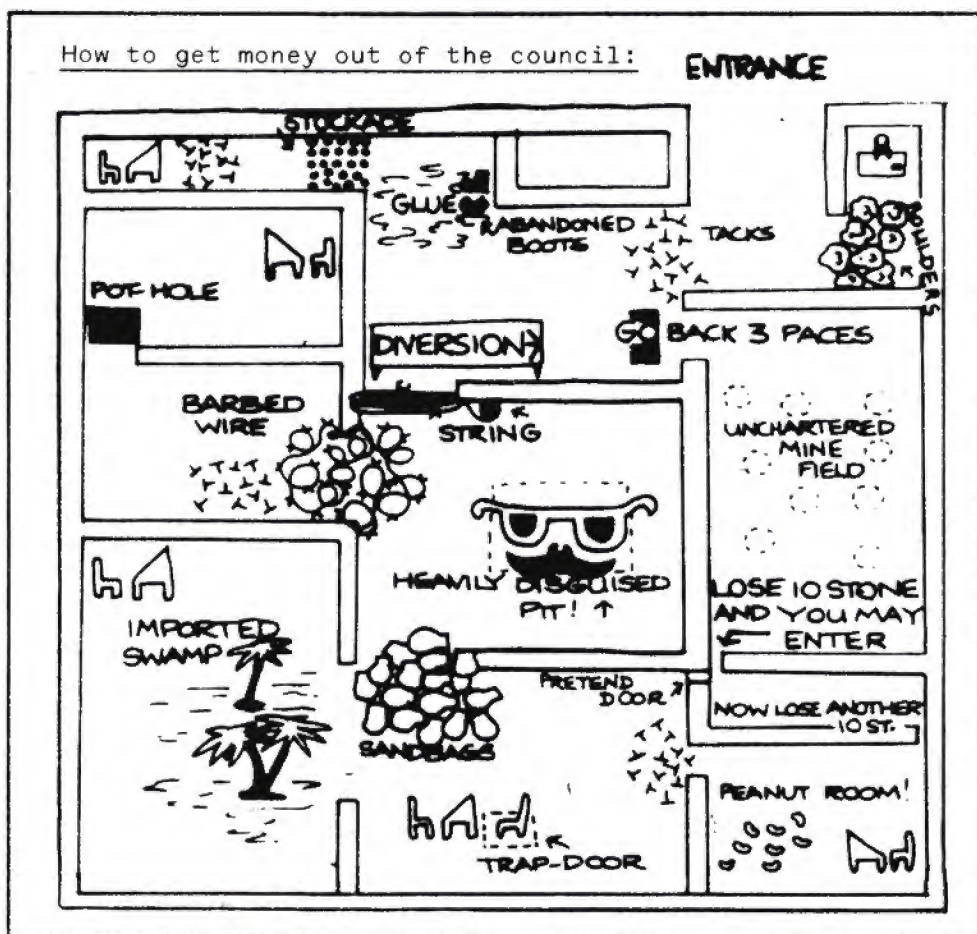
## MAJOR QUESTIONS REMAIN

But major questions remain to be resolved in the discussions next year between the voluntary sector and the council:-

1. Effective, comprehensive and responsive consultation must be established with agreed procedure and status.
2. A clear policy and strategy must be developed and consistently used.
3. The criteria for decisions about funding applications for the programme as a whole must be agreed.
4. The council officers must be more tightly controlled and more answerable.

Voluntary groups have been used to dealing with Tory régimes which have been occasionally unsympathetic or openly hostile. The Labour groups has now indicated some awareness of the needs of the voluntary sector but confidence isn't built in a day. Now groups will be looking to the new city council to demonstrate that awareness from start to finish by ensuring full voluntary sector participation in the process from start to finish.

P.B.





# Nottingham's

decay —

## Day School

The problems of Nottingham's Inner City Areas can't be understood unless they are seen in the context of developments in the national and international economy. This was the main theme in the Day School on Nottingham's Inner City problems organised by Nottingham Workshop in conjunction with the WEA Industrial Group.

The tutors, from the Workshop, said that Nottingham's inner city decay and unemployment problems were largely the result of the decline of manufacturing industry, which was now undergoing major restructuring and contraction on a national and international basis.

There had been a withdrawal or rationalisation of capital investment in manufacturing industries, and investment, in particular from pension funds, was now being directed into property and office developments in inner city sites, causing the obscenity of empty of office accommodation while people were homeless.

These fundamental changes were undermining the local economy — with the consequence not only of disappearing jobs but also of bad effects on local housing, the environment and the general quality of community life.

It was against this background that the challenge of renewed recession in the international economy and the introduction of new microprocessor based technology had to be placed.

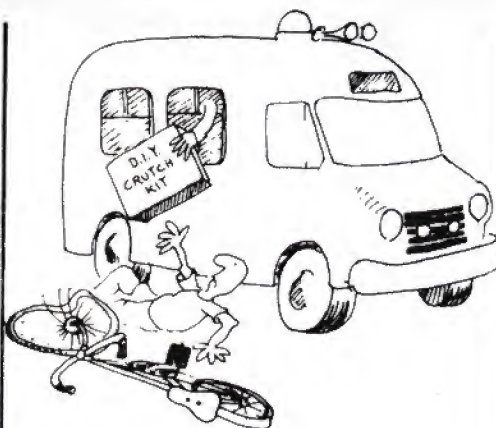
The policy response of both central and local government, in the form of the Inner City Programme, Job Creation and Advance Factory building, were totally inadequate solutions to the scale of the existing problems, even if they survived the new government, let alone the intensification of these problems by the economic developments to come.

The School decided to set up a Study Group to investigate the coming of the new microprocessor based technology in Nottingham and its effects in employment in the city.

For further information, or for the Background Papers to the School, please contact:

NOTTINGHAM WORKSHOP

NOTTINGHAM.



## Fightback

Health — Not Cuts was the name given to a Conference held back in June, which was organised by FIGHTBACK, a campaigning organisation which co-ordinates the local struggles against cuts and for better health and social services. The Conference was attended by delegates from 9 Health Campaigns 17 Trades Councils, representatives from every hospital workers union, and trade unionists from private industry, socialist doctors, community, women's and black people's groups. Matters discussed included how and why the cuts are happening; how ill health is caused in our society, and how to develop a strategy of action to defeat the cuts, and fight for better health and democratic control of a Health Service based on need.

As well as declaring opposition to all cuts in public expenditure, the Conference adopted a resolution which embodied such a strategy, the main points of which are the need to develop a broadly based mass campaign involving health workers and other workers and those who use the service; raising the issue of cuts as widely as possible; and opposition to cash limits, recognising that the Tory strategy for health care is private financing which will put it out of the reach of most working class people.

This strategy also involved the affiliation of local organisations fighting cuts to FIGHTBACK. Fightback produces a regular bulletin and other leaflets to publicise the struggles against cuts. This can be viewed at the 118 Library.

I.B.J.

### SOCIALISM AND HOUSING ACTION

An excellent 72 page pamphlet out this week. Shows how the housing "crisis" is far from over and strongly argues the case for a socialist solution. It covers...history of housing...the housing market...family and private life...action to be taken...etc. Available at 118, Mansfield Road. Full review in the next Bulletin.

## Review

The Collapse of Work by Clive Jenkins and Barrie Sherman.  
Eyre Methuen. £3.50

ASTMS is among the unions that have taken the initiative in studying a subject that should be close to the hearts of every trade unionist — the micro revolution. It seems appropriate therefore that its General Secretary and Head of Research, should 'chip in' with their contribution.

The book provides a readable and informative contribution to the New Technology debate; its pervading theme is that a major change in attitudes to work and leisure will be necessitated by the large numbers of the 'disemployed' (4½ millions they estimate by 1990) as a result of a 'quantum leap' in technology. Mass unemployment is seen as inevitable with or without the micro boom, which Britain has no choice other than to embrace wholeheartedly; the costs of not doing so could be even more dramatic in terms of numbers thrown out of work. However, if the introduction of New Technology is dealt with logically and rationally by unions, bosses and governments alike, it can "ultimately lead to a socialist humanitarian and gratifying society" where the British worker could labour in the morning, cast off the shadow of the Protestant work ethic over lunch, and play tennis in the afternoon.

The belief that, inherent in man's nature is a desire to work, and the social stigma attached if he fails to conform, they argue should be eroded away. Rest weeks sabbaticals and higher unemployment benefit levels are all designed to close the gap between those persons in, and out, of employment. In order to ensure "that the collapse of work is transmuted into a policy of leisure", they continue, co-ordinated central planning and massive public expenditure in Development Agencies, Education, Welfare and Industrial retraining is required. Industry and commerce cannot be left to its own devices, "to do so would be to invite social disaster". Although they acknowledge that to implement such recommendations "is clearly a political decision" they neglect to elaborate this point which is, after all, the most fundamental aspect of the introduction of New Technology.

A.E.





Rocking against racism at the recent  
Carnival on the Forest. (Fotografix)

## T. BAILEY FORMANS

### SPACE-AGE TECHNOLOGY STEAM AGE MANAGEMENT

Print unions have been in dispute with the Evening Post for six long and bitter years.

The management have rode roughshod over their Forman Street staff since their union-smashing victory in the 1973 new technology dispute.

They have been able to introduce computerised technology on their own terms, forcing journalists to take over printers' jobs.

During the 70s the Post has:

- \* AXED OVER 300 TRADE UNION JOBS
- \* CLOSED THE CITY'S LAST-SURVIVING MORNING PAPER
- \* REFUSED TO RECOGNISE ANY UNION WITHIN FORMAN STREET
- \* SET A NOTORIOUSLY BAD EXAMPLE OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS, NOT ALLOWING ANY TRADE UNION OFFICIAL ON THEIR PREMISES

In December, 28 journalists supported 8,500 colleagues on official strike over the appallingly low wages paid to many provincial N.U.J. members.

They were sacked. The Post is the only management out of 250 employers to dismiss its staff for going on strike.

In addition to fighting for this reinstatement, the NUJ, NGA & SLADE are now spearheading a campaign to gain full print union recognition as exists in all other provincial and national newspapers.

MASS PICKET

SAT SEPT 1

MEET FOREST 12.30

# WEA

WORKERS' EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION (Nottingham Branch)

## INDUSTRIAL GROUP

16 Shakespeare Street, Nottingham NG1 4GF

Tel. Nottingham 45162



## DAY SCHOOL WHO CARES?

Child Care for Under-5's

in Nottinghamshire

10.30am — 5.30pm

SATURDAY 15th SEPTEMBER, 1979.

at THE TEACHERS' CENTRE

11, Cranmer Street, Nottingham



This School has been organized by the Industrial Group in conjunction with

Notts. N.U.T./N.U.P.E./N.A.L.G.O. & Nottingham Workshop.

DAY NURSERY FACILITIES FOR CHILDREN ARE AVAILABLE TO RESERVE PLACE(S)

PLEASE SEND TO: FRANK WALTER, WEA DEVELOPMENT OFFICER,

NOTTINGHAM (TEL: NOTTM. [REDACTED]) by the 12th September, 1979.